INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/JP2004/015563

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F04C18/00 C23C16/44 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C23C F04C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. WO 03/023229 A (ULVAC, INC; SHIBAYAMA, 1-5 KOUJI; YAMASHITA, YUUICHI; YAHAGI, MITSURU; TAS) 20 March 2003 (2003-03-20) abstract P,X -& US 2004/173312 A1 (SHIBAYAMA KOUJI ET 1-5 AL) 9 September 2004 (2004-09-09) paragraphs '0040!, '0041!, '0069!, '0080!, '0095!, '0102! US 2002/090310 A1 (IZAWA HIROSHI) 11 July 2002 (2002-07-11) paragraph '0048!; figure 5 EP 1 130 264 A (THE BOC GROUP PLC) A 5 September 2001 (2001-09-05) paragraph '0010!; figure 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: •T• later document published after the International filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the Invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docuother means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *P* document published prior to the International filing date but in the art. later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 28 June 2005 08/07/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Castagné, C Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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